

Governor's Advisory Council on Asian Pacific American Affairs
June 6, 2008 Meeting Summary

The Governor's Advisory Council on Asian Pacific American Affairs held its June meeting at the Michigan Education Association headquarters, with Jayashree Kommareddi, Vice Chairperson, presiding. This meeting included a presentation by Director Ismael Ahmed, Michigan Department of Human Services.

Members reviewed action items established during the Council's Annual Strategic Plan Meeting conducted in April, which include networking with APA community organizations, prioritizing the agendas and activities of the Council, continuing to build strong relationships with state government departments and diversifying the membership of the Council.

The Council is joining CAPA (Council of Asian Pacific Americans) on September 13 to present the Asian Pacific American Leadership Summit VI. This year's meeting will be on September 13 at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center.

The Council will conduct its fall meeting on September 21 (Sunday) in Marquette, hosted by Dr. Leslie Wong at Northern Michigan University (NMU.) NMU will be concurrently hosting the UNITED (Uniting Neighbors in the Spirit of Diversity) Conference, September 21-23 and several Council members indicated their plans to attend the conference after the Council meeting adjourns.

There was brief discussion about several legislative bills currently on Capitol Hill, which might affect APAs.

Thanks were extended to Rep. Hoon-Yung Hopgood for his part in coordinating the 2008 APA Heritage Celebration at the Capitol.

Finally, there was a short discussion about the status of HB 6172 ("Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission Act".) The Committee on New Economy and Quality of Life will be reporting on this bill on June 12 in Lansing. Members are urged to contact their State representatives to indicate support for the bill, and asked to attend this session at the Capitol, if possible.

Next meeting of the Council will be Friday, August 1, 2008 at the Korean American Cultural Center in Southfield, 9 a.m. to Noon.

The Governor's Advisory Council on Asian Pacific American Affairs was created by a May 2005, Executive Order (No.2005 – 10) from Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, to advise the Governor and the Department of Civil Rights on policy matters pertaining to Asian and Pacific Americans in Michigan. H. Sook Wilkinson, PhD, was appointed Chair of the Council, which was placed administratively inside the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. A copy of the Governor's Executive Order is available on the Governor's website at <http://www.michigan.gov/gov>.